

David Jones Medal

Drawn 21

Medallions

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# Medals and Medallions

## David Jones Medal

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

April 14/48.

9. Winchester Road  
Redcar - Yorkshire  
England.

Dear Sir,

I hope you will not consider my enquiry a "merry  
bit" but I have long desired information about a silver medal I have  
tried, let me explain. that we have a friend - (who we have never  
met - at College Park - New York). She sends us U.S.A. Humors and  
Parade. The number. Feb 8 has reached us with an article  
"Lincoln in Pictures". Hence my letter to you. and my enquiry re this  
medal. and may I say. I would be most grateful for any  
information. The medal is in a book style case. lined with  
crimson velvet. It can be opened. and both sides viewed  
without removing from case. One side has the American Eagle  
and on the other a Lighthouse. rough sea. two men - one assisting  
the other out of the angry waves. In gold letters (now fading)  
on the case & engraved on the medal were these words:  
The President of the United States.

To Capt. David Jones of the Brig. Mary Ann. for his rescue  
of the crew of the American ship Cornelia 1861.

Would the President be Lincoln? Captain David Jones was my  
father-in-law. He had 3 sons. David & Morris died in their  
20's. Lewis was my husband. but both his parents.

brothers and one sister had died before we married.

Lewis died 12 years ago. so I was the only daughter-in-law  
and my daughter Elizabeth Mary who is 19 on April 29  
is the only grand-daughter of the Jones family. my hubby.

did not know the history. his father. was just the type

to do such a deed, and tell not even his family.  
His home was Llanon - Cardiganshire - tho. he was 12  
years marine supt. of Glasgow. But I think his home  
address would be Llanon. If it is possible - can you  
tell <sup>us</sup> if the President was Lincoln - and can you tell us  
anything of the affair. In those days of sailing ships. it  
must have been something recorded in the Press - and  
something fairly important to gain such a beautiful  
medal from the President.

Parade says you have thousands of letters - and  
newspaper clippings. If it is a big task - Please - do not trouble  
but if it is possible to give us any information fairly  
early to yourself. we should be made very happy  
my daughter - is very proud of it. We look forward to a visit  
to U.S.A. next year - and intend bringing it over to  
show anyone - interested. I am sorry - I can't enclose a  
stamp for reply. it would be no use me U.S.A.

We can only trust to your kindness to reply

Thanking you

W Lewis Morgan Jones & Mary.

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To



Dr Louis A. Warren.  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.  
Fort Wayne.  
Indiana  
U.S.A.

from

Mr. D. M. Jones

9. Winchester Road

Redcar, Yorkshire, England.



*Lincoln Jones*

May 4, 1948

Mrs. L.M. Jones  
9 Winchester Road  
Redcar-Yorkshire,  
England

My dear Madam:

Your letter with respect to the medal presented to David Jones in 1861 is interesting indeed, and we have made an attempt to discover a story of the incident, but thus far it has escaped us.

Is there any way in which you may come to a better date, that is the month, or the very day of the month on which the rescue was made?

Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated President of the United State on March 4, 1861, and previous to his incumbency, President Buchanan was Chief Executive.

If there appears any other date on the medal or any othermarks that would lead to the time element of the rescue we would be happy indeed to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

May 19.

Dear F. Warren.

9, Winchester Road  
Redcar. Yorkshire. Eng.

Your kind letter of May 11<sup>th</sup> reached us, this A.M.

Thank you for your interest. There is no other date on the medal, but on the base - viz. a fairly strong glass we find the following - which I take it, would be the engravers.

L.E.U.T.ZE. DEL. ELLIS S 6<sup>o</sup> or ELLIS - S. G.

It is rather difficult to discern the last letters.

The case is 5 square - and the medal 2 1/4 diameter.

I find it is recorded on his master's Ticket which he gained in 1856 as follows. Presented by the American Government to David Jones for saving the crew of the Cornelia of Portland - Maine.

A silver medal. 1861. This would I guess be the place of the ship's registration. My husband was the youngest in the family and when he was 11 - his father left the sea - to become Marine Superintendent of the Port of Glasgow. a position he held for 12 years, when he retired to his native Wales.

Glanon - in Cardiganshire. So it all happened rather late in his life, and as his son of the sea - his dad just arrived home with his medal, and very little else - except - 'that all men are, bores who sail the seven seas'. It was sails - bully's words!..

It must have been some merit, to gain such high reward and if at any future period you make a discovery - we should be very happy to have such information forwarded on. It may have occurred before Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> 1861. I think my husband always understood it was President Lincoln. That's what we want to discover.

and with your interest in Lincoln - I guess you would like  
details of this - perhaps the only very small incident during his  
term of office. America and many nations, including my own -  
have learnt to know and honor Lincoln, and we should feel  
"mighty fine folks" if we can really say - President Lincoln gave  
this to my grand father - (a father-in-law).

Thanking you again - for your welcome letter  
(m<sup>rs</sup>) Lewis M. Jones.

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# LINCOLN LORE

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## PRESENTATION MEDALS

It is amazing how current events channel our thinking for the moment in parallel grooves and bring to the surface forgotten incidents of the past. No saga of the sea for many moons has so gripped the attention of the whole world as the heroic but losing battle waged by Captain Kurt Carlsen of the American freighter, Flying Enterprise. After an heroic deed is ventured one often hears the expression, "He deserves a medal." Lloyds of London, the insurance underwriters, presented one to Capt. Carlsen.

### Capt. David Jones Medal

Several years ago an English woman by the name of Mrs. Lewis Jones wrote the Lincoln Life Foundation about a silver medal in her possession which seems likely to have been a token presentation by President Lincoln to her father-in-law, David Jones. The medal bears the inscription: "The President of the United States to Capt. David Jones of the Brig Mary Ann for his rescue of the crew of the American ship Cornelia 1861." On one side there is displayed an American eagle and on the other side a storm scene is pictured with a lighthouse, at the base of which one man is assisting another out of the angry waves. The medal  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter is set in a case which bears on it the same dedication as appears on the medal. The dye maker's inscription is as follows: "LEUTZE DEL ELLIS & CO." A further notation indicates that the ship Cornelia was from Portland, Maine. While there is a possibility that the medal was awarded by President Buchanan, who served until March 4, 1861, there is a tradition in the family that the name of the chief executive who made the presentation was Lincoln.

The Foundation has not succeeded in confirming the incident by the discovery of official papers relating to the presentation, but inasmuch as the story of the Flying Enterprise and its brave captain has aroused a new interest in seafaring men possibly some information about the saving of the crew of the ship Cornelia in 1861 may come to light.

### Sarah Catherine Ford Medal

John A. Ford, a soldier in the Mexican War, was run out of Virginia at the beginning of hostilities because of his loyalty to the Union and was made a captain in the army upon the recommendation of Secy. Cameron. In the course of his military duties he had an occasion to talk with the President in April 1861 and took with him his seven year old daughter, Sarah Catherine Ford. During the conference the little girl is said to have found herself seated on Mr. Lincoln's knee and told the President she wished she were a soldier and bragged about what she would do. The President said he would like to fill his army with Sarah-soldiers. While seated on Mr. Lincoln's knee she made this comment which greatly pleased the President. She said, "You've got the longest legs I ever saw." Two weeks later she received a \$20.00 gold piece from the President dated 1861. It is encased in a silver maltese cross. On one of the arms of the cross is this inscription: "Presented to Sarah C. Ford by Abraham Lincoln," and on another arm, "President of the U. S. Washington, D. C. on the 24th of April 1861."

### President Lincoln's Gold Medal

Abraham Lincoln had been expected to visit Philadelphia on Independence Day 1863 when he was to have

been presented with a gold medal by the Union League of that city. However, the great struggle going on at Gettysburg and Vicksburg demanded that he remain at Washington and the medal was forwarded to him. The purpose of the presentation was to give expression "to their approval of President Lincoln's conduct of the war and national affairs."

In the center of the obverse side of the medal is a shield with the words "E PLURIBUS UNUM" inscribed on it, above the shield are the words "UNION LEAGUE July 4th," on the left "1776" and on the right "1867." Below the shield the word "PHILADELPHIA" appears. On the reverse side this inscription is placed "ORGANIZED PHILADELPHIA DECEMBER 27th 1862." This medal received by the President on July 4, 1863 may have played some part in his selection of a theme which he developed in his Gettysburg Address in November. This gold medal was presented to Congressman George Dondero by the widow of Robert Lincoln.

### George Robinson Medal

Nearly fifty years ago a house painter discovered on a vacant lot in San Francisco, wrapped in a newspaper, a leather case enclosing a bronze medal about three inches in diameter. The obverse side of the medal contained the profile of an unidentified man and just under it this inscription, "For his heroic conduct of the 14th of April 1865 in saving the life of the Hon. William H. Seward, then Secretary of the United States." Encircling the profile were these words, "To George Robinson, awarded by the Congress of the United States March 1, 1871." On the reverse side of the medal two men are shown locked in combat, one armed with a bowie knife.

Robinson was a Maine volunteer who had been injured and while convalescing had been detailed as nurse and guard to attend Secretary Seward who had a broken jaw and fractured leg resulting from a carriage accident. Lewis Payne delegated by John Wilkes Booth to kill Seward overpowered Robinson and was able to get to his victim and slash his throat. Robinson "succeeded in stemming the blood from Seward's severed arteries and so saved his life." Robinson was awarded the gold medal and \$5,000 by special act of Congress March 1, 1871.

### The Widow Lincoln Medal

The most famous medallion associated with the Lincoln story is the gold medal presented by the citizens of France to the widow of Abraham Lincoln.

The communication to Mrs. Lincoln accompanying the medal was dated "Paris, Oct. 15, 1866" and this excerpt is copied from the letter of presentation:

"We are entrusted with offering to you the medal struck in honor of the great and virtuous man whose name you bear, on behalf of more than 40,000 citizens of France desirous of conveying their sympathy for the American Union in the person of one of its most noble and pure representatives."

The medal is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter and on the obverse side there is a profile of Mr. Lincoln with inscription in French and on the reverse side a group of figures of appropriate memorial design. The gold medal is now preserved in the Library of Congress and a few bronze replicas were struck off, one of which is in the Foundation collection.

# CONTINENTAL RUBBER WORKS

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February 29, 1952

Dr. Louis E. Warren  
% Lincoln National Research Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

You possibly may remember, when you were here, you spoke to me about the "Ship Cornelia", and the saving of her crew which was acknowledged by a letter from Abraham Lincoln. I have checked into this and find there was a "Ship Cornelia" and the statistics are as follows:

"Ship CORNELIA. 523T, 131.1 x 29.7 x 14.9  
Built in Portland, Maine, 1848, by Sylvanus Blanchard.  
Joseph Blanchard, Master.  
Abandoned at sea, 1863; Crew saved."

There is nothing in the records that I can locate relative to President Lincoln having written the memorandum but it is borne out by the records which indicate that she was abandoned at sea in 1863 and the crew saved.

I hope this may assist you in your write-up in the recent Lincoln Lore.

Very truly yours,

  
H. T. Fowler

HTF/rz







